

## **Personal Space by General\_KJ**

**Series:** Byler through the years with no upside down au one shots collection [2]

**Category:** Stranger Things (TV 2016)

**Genre:** Alternate Universe - No Upside Down, Boys In Love, Fluff, Gay Mike Wheeler, Gay Will Byers, Kissing, Light Angst, M/M, Party are 13 yrs old, Period-Typical Homophobia, Secret Relationship, Small mentions of abuse

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**Characters:** Dustin Henderson, Lucas Sinclair, Mike Wheeler, Will Byers

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**Summary:**

Mike and Will have been behaving very oddly lately so Dustin decided he needs to know what's going on.

All one shots can be read independently.

## **Personal Space**

### **Author's Note:**

Judge me by my writing not my opinions.

Time for cute Byler :-)

For as long as Dustin could remember, Mike and Will had been a lot closer than best friends usually were. He hadn't really thought about it till now, as it was something he was used to. He thought Mike was overprotective because Will is so sensitive. But lately they have been even closer than usual, and Dustin was determined to find out why.

Holding hands had always been normal for his two friends, but now that he thought about it, two boys holding hands was not normal. Holding hands was something he wanted to do with girls. Holding hands with a boy was gross. Why didn't that bother his friends? They never tried to hold hands with him or Lucas, only with each other. Speaking of Lucas, he had tried to share his concerns with his dark skinned friend, but he had dismissed them without a second thought. He was on his own with this.

Holding hands wasn't the only thing they did, though. Some of the other things they did were so strange that Dustin had no idea how Lucas didn't question them. They held whispered conversations with each other, and exchanged secret giggles. Mike always let Will win at games, and they sleep side by side at sleepovers. Most curious of all, though, was how Will seemed to take every opportunity to sit on Mike's lap.

Sitting on someone's lap was something Dustin always thought was reserved for girlfriends, but his friends didn't seem to think like that. Will was so small, he practically weighed nothing. Maybe it was Will seeking comfort? After all, Dustin knew that Will was really sensitive due to his dad. But it was strange how far Mike was willing to go for the shorter boy. Dustin would never ask about it directly, because he didn't want to accidentally upset Will.

He had watched Mike wrap his arms around Will's waist as Will sat

on his lap, leaning against him during their latest D&D night. Apart from the fact they were acting strangely, Will now was suddenly allowed to sit behind the dungeon master's screen with Mike, despite still being an active player. Dustin had been tempted to ask whether this was against the rules, but held his tongue. But when Mike booped Will's nose during the game and Will giggled cutely, Dustin had decided he really needed to know what was going on.

This was how he ended up spying on two of his best friends from the bushes as they wandered around Hawkins. The pair had told him and Lucas that they were busy that day, but Dustin was suspicious, so he showed up at Mike's house and hid outside. Sure enough, Will had shown up, and soon after the two had set off walking towards the town centre. As Dustin followed them as inconspicuously as possible, he noted that they weren't holding hands. This was odd for them, but he didn't question it.

He watched them go into a diner a few minutes later, their hands brushing slightly. Dustin groaned, knowing that the only way he would be able to solve the mystery was if he went in with them, and then he ran the risk of being caught. He slipped into the building as quietly as possible. This was made difficult by the fact the door had a bell on it. He was forced to quickly dive to the side to prevent his friends turning and seeing him. This earned him a few odd looks, but he ignored them.

He took a seat at a booth which was somewhat out of view of his friends' booth, but kept them in his sights. He hid himself behind a menu so that he could swiftly hide if they looked in his direction. He instantly set about observing them as if they were one of his science experiments. They seemed to be a bit more restrained with contact than usual, which was odd for them, but Dustin couldn't exactly ask them why.

He watched them order their food before starting up a conversation which quickly had them breaking into giggles. He couldn't hear what they were talking about from where he was, but watching the body language was interesting enough for him not to be bothered. He glared at an approaching waitress to prevent her from breaking his cover. She seemed to get the message, thankfully, and retreated.

Dustin sighed in relief before returning his attention back to his friends. He raised an eyebrow at what they were doing. They were playing footsie under the table, which was another thing couples did. Were his friends queer? He wasn't sure why he hadn't considered this previously. He knew that Will got bullied a lot for it. Maybe it was true. Rumours had to be based on something true.

This trip seemed awfully like a date. The other things he had noticed, and the fact that they had come here in secret made him think that this was a possibility. He wasn't homophobic. At least he didn't think he was. He hadn't ever thought about it before now. He had always assumed that the things the bullies said about Will were untrue. But what if they weren't? He couldn't leap to conclusions. He decided to keep watching whilst he grappled with the idea of his friends potentially being queer.

Nothing else happened on the 'date', apart from the normal things the pair did that may or may not be romantic. Once the pair paid and left, Dustin waited a few seconds before rushing after them to ensure he wouldn't be spotted. Once out of the door, he dove into the foliage. He tried to ignore the pain of the branch poking into his ribs as he readjusted his position. He struggled to keep up with the two as he dashed between bushes, trying to keep out of sight. His lack of athleticism was not helping.

Eventually they arrived back at the Wheelers'. Dustin sighed in relief. He could finally rest after having to sprint between patches of vegetation. He took a seat at the window of Mike's basement, guessing that was where they were heading. He was soon proven right. He watched the pair take a seat and cuddle into one another. Will sat on Mike's lap with his back leaning on Mike's chest, as usual. At this point, Dustin was fairly sure they were dating, but he hadn't seen them doing anything that proved it, so he kept watching.

Mike and Will started talking quietly, but all Dustin could hear was muffled voices due to the window. He waited impatiently for them to do something to prove his theory so that he could go home and fully process this revelation. What he didn't expect was for Will to start crying. Their quiet conversation quickly turned into Will sobbing into Mike's chest as Mike rubbed comforting circles into his back. Dustin sat flabbergasted by the window. What was going on?

He strained his ears to try and figure out what's going on and he picked up a few words. "... dad ... beat ... painful ..." After a bit of processing, Dustin realised he was talking about his dad hurting him. Dustin instantly felt bad. He had thought his friends were queer before considering the possibility that Will needed comforting. He decided that he had seen too much, and got up to leave.

He hoped that he and Lucas would be in the loop at some point so that they could help, but for now he would give them space. He was slightly ashamed that he had been so inconsiderate and had spied on his friends, but in his defence they were being weird. He walked somberly home, hoping all the way that Will was ok.

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Mike, meanwhile, watched Dustin leave with a satisfied smirk. They had caught on to Dustin following them almost immediately. The boy really wasn't stealthy. If they were being honest, they had expected their friends to get suspicious of things before now. But if his boyfriend wanted to sit in Mike's lap, who was he to refuse him? Content that Dustin had left, Mike turned and walked back to the couch. As soon as he sat down, Will was in his lap again. Except now he was facing him, which made them giggle slightly.

"Did it work?" Will asked after their giggles subsided.

"Yup. He's none the wiser. Who knew you were such a good actor?" Mike complimented, running a finger down Will's cheek lovingly.

"Maybe I'm not a good actor and you're just a bad actor," Will playfully jabbed.

"I think I like my answer better," Mike responded, pinching Will's cheek slightly, causing him to yelp and glare at him whilst Mike chuckled.

"Well, I probably would need to be if you were much more of a dumbass," Will retorted.

"And what does that mean?" Mike said, raising an eyebrow.

"It took you long enough to ask me out. I'm sure if a few things

happened differently it could have taken you years, and I would have had to pretend not to be in love with you for those years,” Will responded.

“What things?” Mike asked curiously.

Will appeared to think for a second before responding. “What if I went missing, and you met a telekinetic girl who looked like a boy, and you kissed her and dated her for years to try and convince yourself you were straight, but eventually gave up because she started looking too much like a girl?”

“That’s oddly specific.”

“Doesn’t mean you wouldn’t do something like that, though. I may have had a weird dream a few nights ago.”

“Well, even if I did do something stupid like that, I would still end up with you eventually because I could never love anyone else.”

“I’m just glad that no one else got to kiss you before me,” Will responded, tracing Mike’s red lips with his small thumb.

“It’s a good thing that you will be the only one who gets to kiss me, Byers,” Mike responded with a wide smile. Will returned the smile and leaned down to give him a quick peck on the lips. This instantly sent a feeling of warmth through Mike’s body, as per usual. They sat in silence for a few moments, staring at each other lovingly. They were happy to have each other, even if no one else could know how much they loved each other.

“When do you think we should tell them?” Will asked eventually, breaking the peaceful silence.

“We will eventually. When there is less danger.”

“I don’t think our friends would react badly.”

“I don’t either, but it doesn’t hurt to be safe. Besides, what if my family, or anyone else for that matter, somehow finds out? We would be in real trouble.”

"I know. I'm not saying we should do it now. But It would be nice to be able to stop sneaking around at some point," Will responded with a sad smile.

"We will, babe. But I won't love you any less just because no one else knows about it," Mike responded comfortingly.

"I know, Mikey. It just feels like I'm going crazy sometimes from loving you so much," Will replied as he twirled a piece of Mike's hair in his fingers.

"I love you enough to go crazy as well, Willy. So if we're both going crazy, why don't we go crazy together?"

"Yeah, crazy together."

**Author's Note:**

First thing I have wrote that doesn't mention sex once, wanted to write something fluffy and I always love having Will sit on Mikes lap.

Comments and kudos appreciated, they always make me feel better :-)